

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 3, 4, 10, 11 and 17 have been cancelled, claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 21 and claim 22 has been amended. Support for the amendments and added claim can be found at least at paragraphs [0007], [0053], [0054], [0055] and [0059] of the above-identified application and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-16 and 18-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8 and 18-21 are independent claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 4-7 and 11-16 are objected to but are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 18-20 are allowed.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §§ 102 & 103:

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,325,352 to Matsumoto ("Matsumoto"). Claims 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,325,352 Matsumoto. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 8 and 21 to incorporate features of claims 3, 4, 10 and 11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 8 and 21 patentably distinguish over Matsumoto, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Further, claims 2, 5-7, 9, 12-16 and 22 variously depend from independent claims 1, 8 and 21, and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 8 and 21, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

REQUEST FOR ENTRY IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.116:

Entry of this Amendment in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that this Amendment After Final Rejection places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not presented earlier because Applicant believed

that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues under appeal is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

NEW CLAIM:

New dependent claim 22, which includes features similar to dependent claims 7 and 12, with potentially differing scope and breadth, should also be allowable for at least the same reasons as dependent claims 7 and 12.

Consideration of the new claim is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4/24/08

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